

**STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

March 14, 2019

Townsend Building, Department of Education Cabinet Room, Dover, DE

Attendees:

Nicole Alvarez (Representing Senator Sokola)
Dr. Susan Bunting
Doug Crouse
Jennifer Davis
Sonya Dyer
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald
Dr. Susan Haberstroh
Christine Kubik
Lt. Col. Marshall Preston
Dr. Ron Sarg
Laurie Sisk

Unable to Attend:

Patrick "Mickey" Devlin
Terri Hodges
Earl Jaques
David Sokola (representative sent in his place)

Introductions and Welcome:

The State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families (MIC) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at the Townsend Building in Dover by State Commissioner for MIC Dr. Susan Haberstroh. Dr. Haberstroh explained that the group is required to meet once a year. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee reviewed meeting minutes from March 5, 2018 meeting. Jennifer Davis noted that she was at the meeting and requested she be added to the list of attendees. Lt. Col. Preston requested his name be changed to Lt. Col. Marshall Preston. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with corrections and Dr. Sarg seconded, motion passed.

Updates from the Annual National MIC Meeting:

Dr. Haberstroh stated that she attended the National Conference and welcomed for other School Liaison Officers "SLOs" to attend next year. Laurie Sisk stated she would be happy to attend and Lt. Col. Preston stated if there were funds available in the base budget he would be happy to support her travel to the conference. Dr. Haberstroh stated that she would forward the conference dates to Laurie.

Dr. Haberstroh referred members to the Military Interstate Compact (MIC) Annual Report noting on page 3 of the report that "as of May 2018, there are 1,597,639 dependent children ages 0 to 18 in the U.S. Military and of that 1,054,907 are school age (5-18)".

Additional handouts from the conference were made available to committee members as follows:

- Military-Connected School Personnel: Resource and Training Website
- Tutor.com
- Military Community Systems of Support Guidebook
- Military Family Advisory Network: The Congressional Award

Dr. Haberstroh informed the group that next year's dues to the national association will go from \$1.00 per child, minimum of \$2,000 or maximum of \$60,000 to \$1.15 per child or minimum of \$2,300 or maximum of \$69,000 for a state. Delaware is a minimum dues state. The Delaware Department of Education covers the cost of the National dues out of its budget, which Secretary Bunting stated the department is happy to do.

Dr. Fitzgerald asked what we receive for our dues as we are required to pay them and at the current time it is not a lot of money; however, they could increase substantially at any time. Dr. Haberstroh stated that we can reach out to the national organization at any time if we need assistance if contacted by a local education agency (LEA) with a question/concern. However, Dr. Haberstroh did state that she does not receive many inquiries as the LEAs are doing their jobs in supporting the students and their families. Dr. Haberstroh stressed that the state is receiving more support than they have in years past. A handout was provided on the MIC3 FY20 dues and active duty military dependents.

A handout was provided showing data on the Military Connected Youth, as of March 13th, 2018. Dr. Sarg asked if this data only reflects those students in public schools and Dr. Haberstroh stated yes. Lt. Colonel Preston asked, what is the difference between military connected youth and military dependent youth? Dr. Haberstroh read from Administrative Code Title 14, §932, *military connected youth is defined as any student having an immediate family member, including a parent, step-parent, sibling or any other person residing in the same household, who is on active duty, serving in the reserve component, or recently retired from a branch of the United States armed forces. Such branches consist of United States Army, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, National Guard, United States Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the United States Public Health Service. "Recently Retired" for the purposes of this regulation, means having left military service within 18 months prior to September 30 of the current school year; identified as a disabled veteran; or killed in action.* The military connected handout reflects there are 4,014 students this year compared to 3,600 last year and the military dependent handout on which the dues are based reflects 1,716. The difference is because of the different definitions used for differing purposes.

Discussion was held on whether schools are under reporting and some committee members feel that at least Capital and Cape Henlopen are. Committee members were reminded that this is self-reporting and military families must complete the forms each year. Dr. Fitzgerald stressed that numbers will fluctuate because at one time families were told that if you do not live on base then you do not self-identify. Dr. Haberstroh stated that the department did update the guidance forms this year that were sent out to the LEAs for the 2019-2020 school year. Dr. Haberstroh also stated that the military connected youth handout with the State numbers should indicate for FERPA purposes, no data are reported for an LEA with a total of 15 or less.

The Delaware Department of Education and the Compact will continue to work with schools to better reach out to stress the importance of self-identifying. Christine Kubik and Sonya Dyer stated they will continue to work with parents to encourage them to complete the paperwork.

Updates from Partners:

Jennifer Davis from the Delaware Department of Education did a presentation on the EdInsight Dashboard and a handout was provided. The first screen shot on handout shows what the administrative level persons sees at the department and the second screen shot shows what

administrators at the LEAs see. This dashboard is what is used to pull down the data for the military connected totals for the handout that was provided.

Christine Kubik from the Delaware National Guard did a presentation and a handout was provided. Highlights of the presentation were:

- 5,138 of the state's military serve in the National Guard Reserve
- 12 Delaware National Guard Locations in the State
- In 2018 there have been 212 federal missions where personnel were activated and 125 state missions
- There are 750 full time state and 30 state technicians
- Yellow Ribbon Campaign
- Pre and Post Deployment Events
- Child & Youth Program
- Spring Festival for Month of the Military Child
- Military & Family Life Counseling Program
- Camp Colwell – this year will be held on July 25th at Bethany Beach and all committee members are invited to attend
- Delaware National Guard Youth Foundation
- Delaware Joining Forces
- Top 3 Resources – Tutor.com, YMCA and our Military Kids
- Youth ChalleNGe

Dr. Haberstroh announced to the committee that Camp Colwell received a Summer Food Service Program Summer Champion Award for their continued participation in the Summer Food Service Program, serving both breakfast and supper during their one-week camp in July.

Dr. Haberstroh stressed the importance of both the National Guard and the Air Base working with the LEAs to support the military families. Jennifer Davis said that she had Sonya Dyer and Christine Kubik attend a lead school counselors meeting in the Fall to do a presentation and the school counselors did not realize all of the resources available to the military families. Jennifer Davis stated she received a lot of great feedback on the presentation.

The national office of the interstate compact MIC3 (Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission) has created several public service announcements (PSA) and the overview PSA was shared during the meeting. The department has created a state website page for Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

Observance of Recognition of the Military Child in the State of Delaware:

Dr. Haberstroh provided a handout regarding Senate Concurrent Resolution as April the Month of the Military Child in the State of Delaware. Nicole Alvarez stated she will work on getting event organized on behalf of Representative Jaques and Senator Sokola. Air base students will be encouraged to attend as well as students from the local area. Christine Kubik noted that guard students could attend also

Other Discussion as needed:

Dr. Sarg asked if there had been any change regarding the State accountability structure of taking the SAT on the official/designated date to avoid getting a zero. Dr. Fitzgerald stated he knew of

no change. Dr. Bunting stated that there is a makeup day. Dr. Haberstroh stated that the State Assessment is now the SAT, there is no separate test like in the past for 11th graders.

Dr. Sarg asked if consideration had been taken into account in creating an “app” for the public service announcements. Lt. Colonel Preston stated there is a struggle no matter what way communication is done. Christine Kubik agreed with Lt. Colonel Preston and stated that the Delaware National Guard is actually going back to a paper newsletter. Christine Kubik stated that they are including a Honorary Educator in their Guard Program to help with getting information back into the schools.

Lt. Colonel Preston expressed his appreciation to everyone for all of their work on behalf all of military families.

Public Comment:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.